

REMARKS

There remains in this application claims 1-16, of which claim 1 is independent. No claims have been added or cancelled.

Claim 1 has been further amended to include language that was inadvertently omitted when filing the Amendment of January 26, 2007.

Specifically, claim 1 now recites an image forming apparatus comprising, an image former for forming an image on a sheet at a predetermined image-forming speed; a plurality of feeders, each positioned a different sheet-carrying distance from said image former; a carrier for feeding and guiding the sheet fed from each of the plurality of feeders to the image former; a controller for controlling the carrier to suspend feeding of the sheet fed from one of the plurality of feeders at a first position upstream of the image former; and a sensor for detecting the presence or absence of the sheet at a second position upstream of the first position, wherein the controller determines whether feeding a subsequent sheet is suspended at a third position between the first position and the second position based on an output signal from the sensor and controls a speed at which the carrier carries the subsequent sheet, based on at least one of which feeder feeds the sheet from among the plurality of feeders or on the image-forming speed of the image former.

Favorable consideration together with entry of the above amendment and an early passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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